

Minutes
King County Rural Forest Commission
December 19, 2001
Kahn Residence

Commissioners present: Gordon Bradley, Louis Kahn, Bill Kombol, Ken Konigsmark, Fred McCarty, Doug McClelland,

Commissioners absent: Jean Bouffard, Rudy Edwards, Steve Ketz, Matt Mattson, Andrew Schwarz, Dave Warren

Exofficio members: Steve Boyce

Staff: Kathy Creahan, Daryl Grigsby, Bill Loeber, Kristi McClelland, Mark Sollito, Benj Wadsworth

Guests: Lee Kahn

Doug McClelland called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Chair Report

Doug welcomed Daryl Grigsby, the new director of the Water and Land Resources Division. He reiterated that the purpose of today's meeting was to discuss the priorities for 2002 and have an opportunity to socialize in a less formal setting.

Staff Report

Benj recently submitted his annual report to the Executive's office. He distributed copies and gave a progress report on priorities that the RFC established at the beginning of 2001 (attached).

Doug McClelland distributed the draft list of priorities for 2002 and asked for comments. Ken Konigsmark reiterated the need to raise awareness among Council members and new staff members at the County and to present to them a strategic plan for conserving forestland.

Bill Kombol expressed the need to assure that there is sufficient funding to achieve any goals in a strategic plan.

Doug expressed the need for the RFC to assist with the management of KC-owned forestlands.

Gordon reiterated the need for a strategic plan.

Fred McCarty expressed the need for the County to provide a summary of all of the different interrelated conservation efforts (ESA, WRIA efforts, forestry, etc.). He feels that there is not a clear sense of the big picture among the different groups working on related efforts.

Daryl Grigsby feels that the forest workshop should be a high priority. He thinks it would help improve cooperation and develop momentum for forest conservation efforts.

Doug summarized the discussion by highlighting the following priorities:

- Find funding for acquisition of easements and forestland.
- Educate decision makers about the importance of forest conservation.
- Develop a clear strategic plan.
- Monitor regulations that impact development and conservation of forestlands.
- Assist with management of County-owned lands. Ensure that there is public support for management efforts.
- Strengthen the connection between urban and rural forests.

Doug would like to use some meeting time in January to discuss the details of how, what, and when the priorities mentioned will be accomplished.

Ken suggested that in the mean time, Commission members should be contacting Council members to raise awareness about the issue. Doug wants to ensure that meetings with Council members represent a cohesive voice from the RFC.

Forest Policy

Kathy distributed the most recent version of the Executive Order implementing the Forest Policy. She suggested that the Policy basically is a strategic plan. Ken commented that the policy lacks in the “Whereas” section any statistics that show the loss of forestland in the County or statewide.

Public Rule for Forest Plans

Staff needs to conduct a public meeting to implement the Public Rule for forest plans. Kathy suggested using part of the next RFC meeting to hear public testimony. The Rule outlines what needs to be included in a forest plan. It does not dictate the content of the plan but rather the issues that need to be addressed in some way. Doug suggested having the hearing at 9:30 and

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starting the regular meeting at 10:00. Because Kathy will be gone in January, she suggested moving the January meeting to a week earlier or scheduling the hearing for the February meeting. All agreed to schedule it in February.

Benj distributed an updated roster of the Commission and asked that any changes be sent to him.

The meeting was followed by lunch and a tour of the Kahn's tree farm.